

SENATE RESOLUTION

8646

By Senator McAuliffe

WHEREAS, Providing all Washington state children a public education is the paramount duty of the state; and

WHEREAS, It is impossible to provide our children a quality public education if they cannot get to school, if they are hungry during the school day, or if the schools they arrive at are neglected, cold, and unsafe; and

WHEREAS, Classified employees are the bus drivers who are safely transporting, in sometimes dangerous road conditions, over 474,514 students each day in 9,035 busses over 500,000 miles; the child nutrition employees providing breakfast for 113,518 students and lunches for over 440,000 students each day; and the custodian, maintenance, and security employees ensuring that the 2,174 school buildings where our children are receiving their education are functional, warm, clean, and safe; and

WHEREAS, Classified employees are the secretaries who make sure that all parents, staff, and most important all children receive the necessary support and services while at the same time providing love and attention to each student's special needs, even if all that is needed is a Band-Aid, a friendly ear, or a reminder; and

WHEREAS, Classified employees are the instructional assistants who are increasingly depended upon to provide individualized attention to students in the classroom to ensure they meet the higher academic standards, as well as provide such specialized services as nursing and interpreting for deaf children and children with disabilities and students who speak other languages; and

WHEREAS, Classified employees are normally the first employees called upon when there is a threat to our children's safety and security; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to employ over 50,000 classified employees to provide these essential support services to the nearly one million students receiving public education; and

WHEREAS, Washington state students have had their education significantly enhanced by the services of classified school employees; and

WHEREAS, Washington state citizens seldom reflect on the critical role classified employees play in providing our children a quality education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate honor classified school employees during Classified School Employee Week, March 14 through 18, 2005, and urge all citizens to join in honoring and recognizing the dedication and hard work of all classified school employees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the board of directors of the Public School Employees of Washington.